

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC)
Held on Aug. 12, 2015 at 3:30 PM in the Weekes' barn at Fox Call Farm

Commissioners present were Carol Jameson, Sandy Laughner, Bonnie McCarthy, Susan Roney and Bob Weekes. Minutes of the last meeting on July 15 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Bonnie McCarthy, RHC Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. (Funds are managed by the Town Treasurer; the RHC Treasurer tracks funds and expenditures for RHC purposes.) Bonnie also reported on the plan to continue fundraising by soliciting contributions from vendors and local businesses. Bonnie read a draft letter she had prepared for this purpose. Commissioners approved the draft. Members were asked to submit vendor names, addresses and contacts that they feel might be good prospects. Additional quilt raffle tickets will be printed and available at the town firemen's barbeque in August.

Tramp House Project

Construction on the restoration of the Tramp House is well underway, and has attracted many positive comments from residents. Bob Weekes reported on the status of construction and discussed remaining work. Sandy Laughner will oversee the project while Bob is away. The loose fence posts have been shored up, additional loam will be added and mulch will be placed under the split rail fence, framed by 4 x 4 PT timbers, similar to the treatment that Danny Wahl did at his house. Volunteers will scrape and paint the building with work beginning as construction is completed. After prime coats, the original building colors will be used: barn red on clapboard, white on trim boards, shutters, window and door. Roof shingle color closely replicates that found on the original building. In terms of furnishings, Jean Tandy has donated a tramp's blanket, Jane Rice an oil lamp thus far. Tri-State Chimney of Winchester is looking for a stove. While the remains of a discarded ice box were found in trash behind the original tramp house site, our research indicates that there would not have been an ice box in the tramp house during the time it was used as a hostel, so there will not be an ice box in the structure now.

Plans for the Richmond Day Fireman's Barbeque on August 30 were discussed. Carol will coordinate RHC plans with Ed Atkins. Terri O'Rorke will display her quilt at the pavilion and sell raffle tickets along with Bonnie McCarthy during the barbeque. The Tramp House will be complete enough to be open to the public. Sandy and his brother will dress as tramps and play and sing hobo songs. There will be a simple sign with the

basic facts about the Tramp House at the site and a sign listing those who have donated to its restoration to date. The September issue of the Rooster will contain an article and photos about recent Heritage Commission activities. The drawing for the quilt raffle will be held September 16 at 3 PM in the Vet's Hall, immediately before our next RHC meeting. When the Tramp House is complete, we will hold an open house and invite local press, details to be determined.

Bob Weekes discussed the restoration work that has been done in Grafton, VT, on that town's tramp house, some of it with L-CHIP funding.

Plans for future RHC presentations were also discussed.

Historical Signs

A next project will be uniform signage for town historic sites, starting with the Tramp House, Town Hall and Vets Hall. We need to do additional research and planning on other historical sites over this winter. Carol noted the need for signage at the Town Hall visible on Route 32 so that people can locate it, likely at the area around the driveways. Other signage may be used to communicate historic facts.

Richmond 4 Corners

Bob Weekes gave a presentation on the notice boards at 4 Corners, on private property owned by the Brewer Family (in front of the former Gerry Brewer house and also the former town common before the widening and slight rerouting of Route 32). The notice boards are unsightly, have not been maintained and are no longer used to post town notices. Bob presented a plan for a mini-park on this site. He had earlier presented this idea to the Brewer descendants and they are enthusiastic about the plan and want to work with the Heritage Commission on this project.

Pipeline Update. Carol Jameson gave an update on the proposed reroute of the NED pipeline. The town is writing a letter in opposition to this, to FERC and to our elected state and federal officials. The RHC will also write letters in opposition.

The meeting, a productive work session lasting almost 4 hours (!), was adjourned just prior to 7:30 pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary
Carol Jameson, Chair